



Easter Seals *Employment Industries*

March 15, 2010

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Easter Seals Employment Industries

122 Avenue of Industry
Waterbury, CT 06705

158 State Street
Meriden, CT 06450

Easter Seals Centers for Better Hearing

22 Tompkins Street
Waterbury, CT 06708

Heritage Village
Professional Bldg.
Southbury, CT 06488

158 State Street
Meriden, CT 06450

All Kids Child Care Centers

22 Tompkins Street
Waterbury, CT 06708

128 Avenue of Industry
Waterbury, CT 06705

125 Broad Street
Meriden, CT 06450

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Re: Senate Bill No. 422 "AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES PILOT PROGRAM"

My name is Ron Bourque, and I am the Director of Vocational Rehabilitation Services at the Easter Seal Rehabilitation Center Greater Waterbury Inc, in Waterbury CT. Our organization strongly supports Raised Bill 422, because it would renew and extend Public Act 05-126, previously passed in 2006. This Pilot program continues to provide gainful employment for hundreds of persons with disabilities in our State, and is vital link to continue expansion and growth of employment opportunities for persons with disabilities. In almost every circumstance it is the lifeblood for numerous individuals with disabilities, who prosper and thrive, every day from the Pilot Program. Over the past three years of the program, the number of persons with disabilities working has grown significantly, and will continue to expand. Through our agency, over one hundred individuals continue to be employed through the Pilot. There is no mistaking the overall impact that the Pilot Program has had on expanding employment opportunities for persons with disabilities. Over the past 12 months, the program has created 15 community jobs, producing \$250,000 in wages and 35,760 hours of employment for people with disabilities..

Our organization specializes in providing vocational training and employment opportunities for persons with disabilities. As a participant in the State's Preferred Purchasing Program, it has assisted us tremendously in achieving our mission of moving persons with disabilities away from unemployment, and into employment. This rate of integration and movement will continue with the continuation of HB 422. Strides of the past three years will continue with its extension. This program provides a living wage to many, facilitating increased self-sufficiency through independence, while reducing dependence on a wide array of state assistance and social welfare programs. As viable taxpayers, persons with disabilities have been able to take their rightful place alongside others in the Connecticut workforce.

Easter Seal urges you to renew the Pilot Program through Raised Bill 422.
We thank you for all your efforts as you consider this vitally needed legislation.

Sincerely,


Ron Bourque

Easter Seal Rehabilitation Center of Greater Waterbury Inc.



Commission on
Accreditation of
Rehabilitation
Facilities

NAEYC
National Association for the
Education of Young Children